

# editors viewpoint

GUEST EDITORIAL —  
"ALCOHOLICS BUT NOT  
ANONYMOUS"

By Murray E. Burr



"WHY ARE THE OFFICES IN THE ORGANIZATION ACTUALLY POTENTIAL DEATH TRAPS?" It does not take a profound mind or analysis to arrive at this simple conclusion. When all the facts and evidence are assembled, it is the only logical conclusion one can arrive at. I have been a close observer of Organizational activity for over 30 years. Only God knows the spiritual and moral wreckage that I have seen strewn along the way. These men were enticed into the snare of Organizational office and paid dearly for the experience.

First, let every Office-Holder in the System take warning — **"EVERY SINGLE OFFICE IN THE ORGANIZATION FROM HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEEMAN TO GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT IS A USURPER: THEY ARE UNSCRIPTURAL, UNETHICAL, UNREASONABLE, UNNEEDED, UNREALISTIC, UNSPIRITUAL, UNHOLY, UNCHRISTIAN AND UNCESSARY. THEY STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE THE JUDGMENT BAR OF GOD AS ILLEGITIMATE, WITHOUT SPIRITUAL, SCRIPTURAL OR HISTORICAL SANCTION OR PRECEDENT. GOD DID NOT BEGET THEM, THEREFORE HE DOES NOT CLAIM THEM. I know this is language with the bark still on, but "THEY ARE EVERY ONE BASTARD OFFICES". For them to claim the Father-hood of God is to slander God AND TO CHARGE HIM WITH COMMITTING SPIRITUAL ADULTERY.**

As my musical Pastor friend from Florida stated over the telephone recently, "Bro. Burr if Organizational Offices are usurpers then they are against God. **"AND ANYTHING THAT IS AGAINST GOD IS ANTI-CHRIST"**. You Gentlemen of the cloth, you may cut the cloth any way you are of a mind to, these are the concrete facts of the case and there is no other answer. **"AND THESE FACTS GENTLEMEN CANNOT BE REFUTED; I CHALLENGE YOU TO TRY"**.

Repeatedly I have challenged the world to show me any of the following offices or practices in the New Testament Church, or anything in God's Bible that would even remotely justify their existence. I have yet to be answered in a sensible, factual manner.

Where in God's Bible can we find Politics?  
2. Where in the nature and Holiness of God can we find anything to justify the spirit of Politics. The spirit of politics Ladies and Gentlemen **IS A CUT-THROAT SPIRIT**, and the men who give themselves over to this spirit become well versed in the art.

3. Or Democratic elections?
4. Or Sectional Presbyters?
5. Or District Superintendents?
6. Or General Superintendents?
7. Or Assistant General Superintendents?
8. Or affiliated Churches? The New Testament knows only Sovereign Churches.
9. Or paying one's tithes to an organizational-headquarters? We are supposed to pay our tithes where we receive our spiritual food. The Queen City of Missouri is a noted Mother-Hubbard's Cupboard - always somewhat bare.
10. Or Pastor's over Pastors? This is Hierarchy. The Roman Catholic Church fathered Religious Hierarchy.
11. Or the formation of a Political-Ecclesiastical Organization in violation of the Bible and then call it **"THE CHURCH"**. This is presumption and it can very easily be interpreted as **"BLASPHEMY"**.

12. Or writing that **"COMEDY OF ERRORS", "THAT KALEIDOSCOPE OF CONTRADICTIONS"** called **"THE MANUAL"**, then having the colossal gall to hold it aloft along side the Bible and declare - **"THE CHURCH SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THESE TWO BOOKS"**.

you Gentlemen who hold these unscriptural offices inside the Organization, please answer me. **IF THESE TWELVE PROPOSITIONS OR CHARGES THAT I HAVE NUMBERED AND NAMED ABOVE ARE WRONG AND I AM IN ERROR, THEN WHY DO YOU NOT PROVE ME WRONG?** Ladies and Gentlemen they won't because they can't. They do not have a single leg to stand on. Everyone of their celebrated and much bally-hoed offices are usurpers, actually super-ceding and taking over the functions of God's New Testament offices and ministries of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors - Teachers.



Clear-headed, resourceful men of independent thought will easily think their way through the error and contradictions of Ecclesiastical Organization. It is the weak, egotistical, ambitious, attention starved little men who have never learned to think for themselves, who easily fall prey to the snare of Political Office. **"THESE ARE THE MEN THAT CONSTITUTE BRAMBLE MATERIAL."** And sad to say, the Organization is well supplied. Such men have never known the meaning of a fruitful and productive ministry. There are District Superintendents today who have not witnessed enough men converted under their ministries to serve as Pall-bearers if they should die. Imagine a large District, comprising scores of churches and hundreds of preachers putting their spiritual and moral trust under such a shadow.

The Organizational System (Mystery Babylon), and the drama and excitement of its Politics along with the lure of illusionary power deceives such men. They are foolishly led to believe that their office grants them a mandate to exercise jurisdiction and authority over spiritual matters, when all the time the questionable mandate they may possess it purely man-made and political. It is here these foolish, mindless Uzzas, intoxicated with their own pathetically childish sense of self-importance, intrude into the sacred precincts of God's Holy of Holies and lay unauthorized hands on spiritual things they have no right to touch. **"THIS CONSTITUTES THE DEADLY SIN OF PRESUMPTION"**.

I shudder at the ignorance and presumption of these foolish and superficial men. No wonder so many of them leave office bitter, broken, at a quandary, with no ministry, no spirituality, no anointing and no place to go. The warning voice of the Holy Ghost has been overrode for so long in their lives that they are like a rudderless ship, without compass, chart or star. Many District Superintendents and Sectional Presbyters actually, literally tread where Angels would fear to tread.

Think for just a moment the enormity of the following dead. Permit me to brand it as spiritual murder of the First Degree. A fine, clean doctrinally straight and God-called preacher is experiencing a mighty spiritual outpouring in an affiliated church. The District Superintendent hears of it. The preacher in question does not carry a fellowship card with the Organization. The Sectional Presbyter, under orders from the District Superintendent, shoulders his way into the local church, reprimands the Pastor, closes down the revival and sends the Evangelist packing. It matters not one whit that souls are finding God right and left; Or that God's Blessings and approval and anointing have been manifested in a signal way; Or that precious souls will be eternally lost because of their brutal, gestapo tactics. To these **"POLITICAL-BRAMBLES"** such arguments are trivial and irrelevant. Of major concern to them are that the

walls of bigotry have been breached; The Political Manual has been violated; And Caesar (in this case Mystery Babylon) must be served.

I close my eyes and the scene conjured before them are of wild swine; Stupid, stolid, bleary-firey eyed; mentally and spiritually stunned; Grunting their way out of the bush; Rooting under the walls of the ancient Tabernacle in the Wilderness; Bruttishly over-turning the Sacred Ark of the Covenant; Poking their greedy and polluted snouts into the hallowed vessels of the Lord; And finally ripping through the side-walls they depart leaving it smeared with mud and slime and slaver.

But can I believe my eyes? Are my ears deceiving me? Are the days of big Organization actually over? Are men actually positive and absolute signs that the old System is crumbling? Are men actually coming to their senses enough to realize how unscriptural Organizational Offices are and what potential Death-Traps they have become? God revealed this truth to me and my life and ministry has never been the same. There is no doubt that he will reveal it to honest hearted men everywhere.

After 26 years as an avid (I could almost say rabid) organizational adherent, this truth hit me like a thunder-bolt. It started when a preacher friend said, **"BURR, DON'T YOU REALIZE THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A CHURCH ORGANIZATION UNTIL THE COUNCIL OF NICEA IN 325 A.D."** I thought I knew my church history, but somehow this fact had escaped me. It did not take me thirty minutes in a good library to prove how right he was. To say that I was astonished beyond measure would be an understatement. My feelings must have been akin to those of Josiah when they delivered to him a copy of the Law that they had been buried among the rubbish of the temple for so long. Instantly I recognized just how far this Pentecostal Movement had strayed in erecting her huge Political-Ecclesiastical Systems and the burning wrath that no doubt God has stored against them.

Ladies and Gentlemen the answer is so obvious that even a Simpleton can see it; **"IF THE CHURCH ORGANIZATION BEGAN AT NICEA AND NOT AT PENTECOST, THEN CHURCH ORGANIZATION IS ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NOT APOSTOLIC"**. Therefore Church Organization, with her ascending series of rulers, is the end product of a Pagan, Apostate System. When these positive facts finally penetrated by thinking many pieces of the puzzle that I had pondered for years but had no answer for, instantly fell into place.

As Jesus Name People we have preened ourselves on rejecting the Doctrine of the Trinity and Baptism in the titles, but we are not near as clever as we think we are because we have swallowed hook, line and sinker the biggest and most erroneous package of Romas Catholic Heresy of all . . . **"HER PAGAN SYSTEM OF CHURCH GOVERN-**



MENT". If this is not true, and the Organization that we have known is not a carbon copy of the Old Roman Catholic System - "THEN WHY THE UNCHRISTIAN BIGOTRY, THE IRON CURTAINS OF ORGANIZATIONAL SECTARIANISM AND HE BRUTAL INTOLERANCE? Why is fear of retaliation the predominating emotion in the hearts of all her preachers? I lived under the shadow of that fear for years, therefore I know whereof I speak.

Protestant Denominations are not daughters of the Harlot because they embrace the Trinity. That is only part of the story. **PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS ARE DAUGHTERS OF THE HARLOT BECAUSE THEY COPIED ROME'S SYSTEM OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT**". Ladies and Gentlemen I dare the Organization **TO DENY THE RELATIONSHIP**. With the exception of the Methodists and the Episcopal Churches, I CANNOT THINK OF ANOTHER RELIGIOUS SYSTEM ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH THAT HAS MORE COMPLETELY DUPLICATED THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FORM OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT, THAN HAS THIS PRESENT ORGANIZATION." CERTAINLY NO OTHER RELIGIOUS SYSTEM ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH OTHER THAN ROME HAS MANIFESTED A MORE VICIOUS SPIRIT OF BIGOTRY AND INTOLERANCE THAN HAS THIS ORGANIZATION; AND HER OPERATING UNDER THE BANNER OF THE ONLY TRUE APOSTOLIC-PENTECOSTAL CHURCH". Oh I know they will squirm under indictment; but they deserve to be indicted.

Back when I first became clearly convinced of this and began to write, I had no other alternative than to attack the basic foundations of the Old System. Naturally a distinct and horrified shudder ran through the entire American Jesus Name Pentecostal Movement. "MY GOD BURR," THEY SCREAMED AT ME, "CAN'T YOU REALIZE THE ENORMITY OF YOUR EVIL DEEDS". "YOU HAVE COMMITTED THE UNPARDONABLE SIN; YOU HAVE QUESTIONED THE GREAT HORN-SPOON".

Poor darlings. I love every one of them, even if I have handled them a little roughly. They were and are such victims of mental and spiritual inbreeding that it never occurred to their little minds to check out the truth of what I was saying. **THESE WERE THE FORBIDDEN CORRIDORS OF THOUGHT THAT THEY COULD NEVER PERMIT THEIR MINDS TO WANDER DOWN AND STILL BE LOYAL TO THE OLD SYSTEM**. But this was a truth that had been too long crused to the earth, "THEREFORE IT WAS DESTINED TO RISE AGAIN."

Today the signs are more encouraging. Prominent Organizational Preachers are at last coming to their senses and recognizing that Political-

Ecclesiastical Organizational offices are unscriptural and pose a potential Death-Trap to the unwary. That is why many of them are leaving office and others, especially those with proven, spiritual ministries are shunning Organizational Offices like the plague. In view of this definite and astonishing trend, what does the future hold for the Old System? Ladies and Gentlemen the handwriting is on the wall and it does not take a Daniel to read it.

"WATCH THE QUALITY OF THE OFFICE HOLDER IN THE ORGANIZATION DEGENERATE TO A SHAMEFUL AND PATHETIC LEVEL. I am not referring to ability alone; But I speak with reference TO MORALS, SPIRITUALITY AND ETHICS. Small, superficial, egotistical men, lurking back in the Political shadows who have never known the lime-light or the meaning of a fruitful ministry, will suddenly find coveted offices within their grasp. They have miserably failed as ministers, but through political office they hope to gain the prestige and recognition long denied their starved egos. But the offices that will now fall into their hands will be but empty shells; a bubble that will burst at their touch. The glory will have long since departed. What glory can one glean from an office that all the qualified men have rejected?

It could very well be that at this stage disaster and disintegration will truly set in. Definitely there is an altogether different mood prevailing in the System than there was a decade ago. Ten years ago Political Giants stalked the land with clubs of iron in their hands. It is an altogether different Ballgame today. God raised up a few Davids with slingshots and the number of the Giants have been somewhat decimated. I could easily be off a million miles, but I do not believe the prevailing mood will tolerate Political Totalitarianism as it did a few years ago. The myth of Organizational invincibility has been shattered. If its cold out there, its certainly getting too hot in here. Preachers today have options that we did not have ten years ago. They can go elsewhere, and find more areas of labor than they can ever fill. Therefore when these spiritual plgmies, with their inflated egos and limited abilities come along trying to step in the tracks and wield the clubs the old Bulls-Of-The-Woods wielded a few short years ago, they better have their clubs salted and peppered and tenderized because somebody is going to feed them back to them.

#### "POSTSCRIPT"

##### "DESTINED TO BE A BRAMBLE"

To better illustrate what I have been attempting to say above, permit me to give a case history. I do not write this to injure the man. Neither do I harbor any animosity toward the man. I write this with the hope that I could shake the man and others like him



to come to their senses and to abandon these unscriptural offices and build themselves a spiritual, productive ministry before they totally destroy themselves.

I knew this man back in the olden days. I never considered him particularly bright and as a certified-Pedigreed product of offspring begotten through the spiritual and mental inbreeding that had been going on inside the system for over thirty years, he certainly would not be expected to possess very much imagination or original thought.

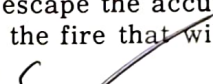
To me he was the epitome of the perfect hench-man — swift with the hatchet and fanatically loyal to the System. His was a closed-end mentality. The length, the breadth, the depth and height of all his thinking was bounded by the cheap paper covers of the Organizational Manual. To him the System was God and God was the System and to have questioned or investigated and found out differently would have been blasphemy; Furthermore the shock of such a revelation would have been more than his nervous system could have stood.

I would never have picked him as the one whom the lightening would strike, but fate is strange and her ways inscrutable. Here he was at the top of the heap and at an utter loss of what to do. Characteristic of the man, he began to do what he knew how to do best - **"SWING THE HATCHET"**. (Shades of Rehoboam. Boys will be boys and brambles will be brambles). From the reports reaching me he has been blindly and almost in a frenzy, striking right and left.

One disgusted and utterly disillusioned Pastor stated to me, "The foolish thing about the whole ridiculous mess is that he is cutting his friends down along with his opposition. Well there is an ancient bit of philosophy that reads like this, "People deserve the leadership they get."

When the news of this man's elevation came to me - I shuddered. I had the feeling my old-time Louisiana neighbors described, "As rats running across my grave." In substance this is the statement I made. "If ever in my life I have known a man so fitted by nature, mentality, temperament, personality, training, background, and discipline to become **THE PERFECT BRAMBLE** he is that man. Events since then are certainly justifying my judgement.

I would not be in this man's shoes for a thousand worlds. Nothing can be more vicious, or blind, or stupidly unreasoning or inhuman than religious persecution prompted by bigotry. Organizational Bigotry seems to be prompting this man's every action. It is altogether possible that like Uzza, he has already fatally touched the anointed. I can see no roadblock as of this time, lying in his path to keep him back from this terrible sin of presumption. As I have mentioned before, he foolishly assumes that his political office gives him a spiritual mandate to handle the sacred things of God. It seems inevitable but that many a Cedar in Lebanon, seeking to escape the accursed shadow, will be consumed by the fire that will come forth out of this Bramble.



### *Poor Preacher*

I feel sorry for the preacher  
In a little country town;  
If he's not a shining angel,  
All the gossips run him down.  
If he stays at home to study  
He should go to see the sick.  
If he goes to a convention  
Why, he doesn't care a lick.  
If he visits ailing ladies,  
He's a gad-about and flirt;  
If he dares to go a fishing,  
His good name's forever hurt.  
If he's boosting for the young folks,  
He's too modern — he's a clown;

He won't preach old fashioned sermons  
Fit for such as Grandpa Brown.  
If he caters to the old folks,  
All the young ones stay away;  
And they never ask God's blessings  
On him when they kneel to pray.  
And the unbelieving farmers  
Ridicule his soft, white hands—  
Hands that welcome weary sinners  
And then teach them God's commands.  
Yes, I sympathize with the preachers,  
For they're human as can be,  
And I know they can't be perfect,  
For they make mistakes like me.